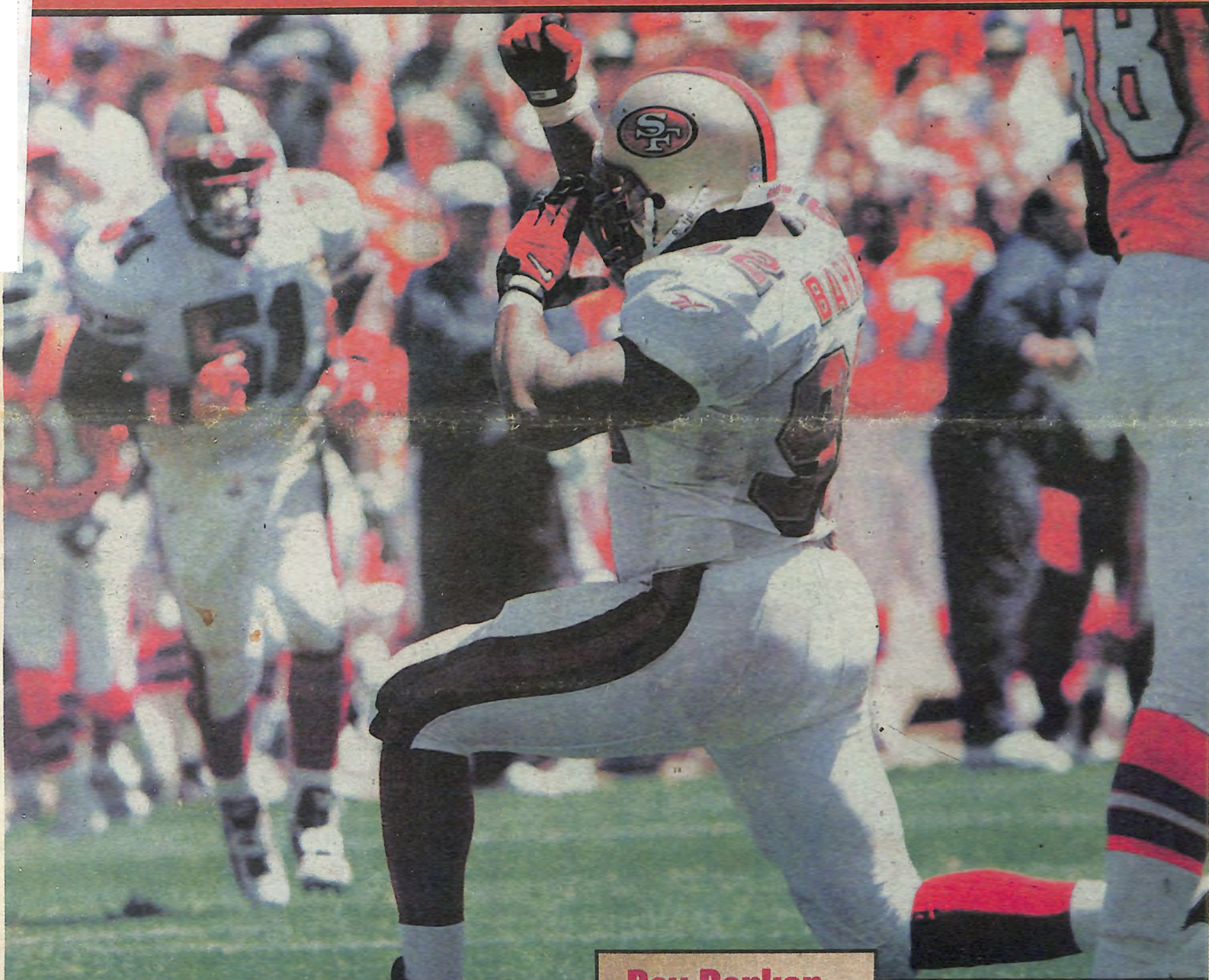


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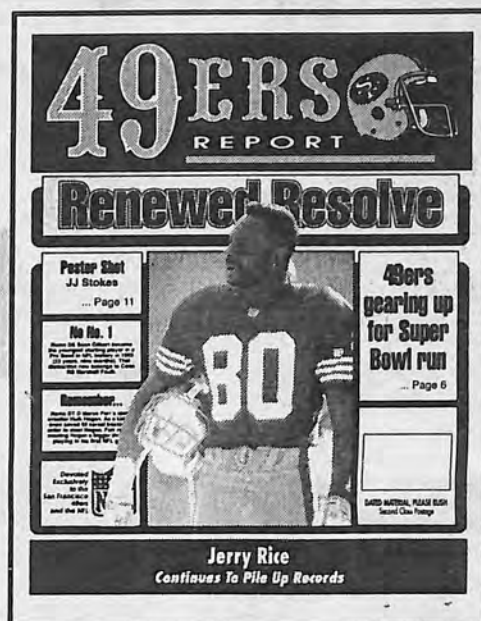
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Golden State Media, Inc., Raymond D. Yannucci, President/Treasurer; Babi Scott, Executive Vice President; Gregory Sealey, Secretary.

49ERS REPORT (ISSN 0897-7084) is published 29 times annually - weekly September, October, November, December; three weeks in January, August; monthly February, March, April, May, June, July. Prepaid subscription prices: California residents - \$36.95, one year; \$60.95, two years. Residents of other states and U.S. possessions, \$38.95, one year. First Class delivery is \$28 extra per year; Air Mail is \$89.00 extra per year. Foreign subscriptions acceptable if paid in U.S. currency. Back issue price: \$3.25. Payments must accompany orders. All subscriber letters (include your account number) regarding inquiries, adjustments, complaints and address changes should be made in writing to 49ERS REPORT, P.O. Box 815, Missouri City, TX 77459 or FAX to (713) 261-5999. To order new subscriptions and renewals only, call 49ERS REPORT, (216) 826-4640. 49ERS REPORT is published by Golden State Media, Inc., 2 Berea Commons, Suite 200, Berea, OH 44017. Second Class postage paid at Berea, OH, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 49ERS REPORT, P.O. Box 815, Missouri City, TX 77459.

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FROM THE EDITOR

TAKE FIVE, STEVE

KEVIN
LYNCH

Steve Young, put your feet up. Reelax. Take a week off. In fact, take a couple of weeks off. Take all the time you need to recover from that nasty pulled groin. The fact is, Steve, the Niners don't need you, at least not yet.

After the first two weeks of the season the 49ers found they don't need Steve Young, Jerry Rice or the rest of their vaunted offense. The defense is so dominant, the club could exist on the defense's play alone to finish off their season. Heck, this defense is finishing off everything else.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in a long time the 49ers' offense is in an unheard-of position of taking a backseat to the defense. Ever since the club's inception, the 49ers have been renowned for offense. Frankie Albert, Alyn Beals, the Million Dollar Backfield, John Brodie, Gene Washington — the litany of offensive stars is unending. Even in the championship years, the success seemed all predicated on offense — Bill Walsh, Joe Montana, Dwight Clark and Roger Craig. They were the ones who captured the championships, or so it was perceived.

Somewhere lost in the footnotes was the defense's contribution.

But if the 49ers continue to stifle offenses like they did last Sunday against the Rams, there will be little choice but to tout the defense.

The Rams needed visas to enter 49ers territory on Sun-

day. They didn't step over the 50-yard line until 2:17 remained in the third quarter. By that time, the game was neatly tucked away and snoring in the 49ers' win column.

The Rams are a young team, but no slouches when it comes to offense. Yet, against the 49ers they managed just 105 yards of total offense. It was the fewest yards a 49ers' defense had allowed since holding the Bears to 69 on Oct. 23, 1977.

The Rams had more total drives (13) than first downs (6). On a team revered for offense, the 49ers had recorded more safeties (2) than passing touchdowns (0) last weekend.

The 49ers were so good they were bickering about who would make the most big plays.

"Sometimes the sacks came too quick," safety Tim McDonald said, "because we (the secondary) were in position to make some big interceptions back there."

MCDONALD THEN QUICKLY remembered he was a few lockers down from 285-pound defensive tackle Bryant Young.

"But, we'll take the sacks," he said.

The 49ers recorded seven sacks for the day, with Young helping himself to three of those. He would also add three other tackles, a fumble recovery, and the enduring respect of those who witnessed his incredible afternoon.

Guard Derrick Deese said you could do everything right as linemen, but still be wrong against Young.

"You can set up perfectly, have your weight as low as it can go, and he's still unstoppable," Deese said. "B.Y. is amazing."

The Rams have been playing against Young and fellow defensive tackle Dana Stubblefield for the last two seasons,

and they know what kind of havoc they can wreck. That's why Coach Rich Brooks moved Bern Brostek from center to guard. He hoped Brostek, the Rams' best lineman, would be able to contend with Stubblefield man-to-man.

AT THE START OF THE GAME, the Rams wanted to run at Stubblefield and linebacker Ken Norton. The strategy backfired big-time. Stubblefield tossed blockers aside and put the squeeze on rookie runner Lawrence Phillips. What Stubblefield didn't get, Norton cleaned up.

Then, when it came to pass rushing, Stubblefield usually got doubled-teamed by Brostek and center Mark Gruttaduari. It left Young alone against Dwayne White.

"You know when one guy gets doubled-teamed the other guy has to get pressure and come up with the sacks," Stubblefield said, "and that's what B.Y. did today."

When asked about the defensive line, the offensive line just smiles.

"We have to go against them six days a week," Deese said. "Then the other guys get a nightmare for a day."

"I tell Stubby (before the game) to give them that Rocklin stuff," guard Ray Brown said, alluding to training camp, "because it made us sick."

Brown's not lying. More players were treated for dehydration this year than any other year at Rocklin. Most of the those players were offensive guys who had to deal with the heat of the day, and the heat of the 49ers' front four.

"We haven't even tapped into our talent," Stubblefield said. "You haven't seen the best of our defensive line."

Hey Steve, go to Hawaii. The defense will call you in December, in time for playoffs and that big bowl they play at the end of January. Until then, just take it easy. ☺

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DEFENSIVE LINE ROTATION COULD END

The 49ers were one of the first teams to rotate their defensive linemen. The idea was to keep their linemen fresh, and confound offensive linemen by changing players on them.

THE ACQUISITION of defensive ends Chris Doleman and Roy Barker might signal an end to that practice. Starting linemen Barker, Doleman, Dana Stubblefield and Bryant Young rarely got breaks in regular-season opener against the Saints.

"Barker and Doleman are stay-in-the-game-for-the-duration players," Coach George Seifert said. "That's something that's different and unique to us."

The idea of rotating is something new to Doleman. He has been a player who rarely saw the sidelines through his 12-year career.

"If I'm capable of practicing, then I want to be rewarded on game day," Doleman said. "I'm not a part-time player. I don't think that's what they want. If I can play one through three (downs) then I should play one through three."

Doleman would like it to be left up to him as to when he takes a rest and when he doesn't. Some are concerned Doleman, soon to be 35, wore down toward the end of last season. In the last two seasons his sack totals dipped into single digits after registering at least 11 for five of seven seasons. He had nine sacks in 1995, and 3 1/2 of those came on opening day.

DOLEMAN poo-pooes the age factor.

"I can still move around," he said. "Steve (Young) and I are the same age. I don't see

them asking him to take any plays off."

While Doleman didn't get many sacks towards the end of last season, he was putting pressure on quarterbacks. He was one of the key factors in the Falcons' victory over the 49ers on the last weekend of the regular season last year.

OTHER STARTERS aren't keen on situational substituting, either.

"I don't like third-down situations when they bring in the other defensive ends," Stubblefield said. "You don't know what the new guy's thinking."

How much substituting the line will do is to be determined.

"We've got to get a better feel for them (the new defensive ends) and in fact, what their endurance level is," Seifert said.



Roy Barker



What,
Steve
Worry?

Despite receiving four stitches in his chin after being sacked by Saints defensive end Renaldo Turnbull, Steve Young said he's not worried about pass protection.

"We're just going to work through that," Young said. "We don't even talk about it that much. Don't even worry about it. I don't even think about it that much, to be honest."

Ironically, Young made these comments after cautioning a radio reporter not to jab him in his damaged chin with a microphone.

Young said Turnbull apologized to him after the incident.

"He said he didn't mean to do it, but that I turned right into him. He's a good guy."

Young expected to have the stitches out last week.

The 49ers almost had to re-sign another cornerback after starting the season with just three cornerbacks on their roster.

HANKS HAZED OVER RAISE

The news that safety Merton Hanks was on the verge of signing a seven-year \$22-23 million deal, was the subject of good-natured locker room fun.

Offensive tackle Harris Barton got the attention of the entire room, and then equipment man Bronco Hinek wheeled out a paycheck on a dolly. He stopped in front of Hanks and strapped on a weight belt, and lifted it with feigned effort.

"That's a baseball contract," offensive tackle Steve Wallace bellowed as Hinek went through his antics.

"That's when I know it's a decent contract, because of stuff just like that," Hanks said, smiling.

"There's always going to be some pushing and shoving," Young said. "I think he (the referee) went a little far in throwing me out of the game."

INJURIES

Defensive end Chris Doleman came up with a knee injury late last week, but it wasn't expected to sideline him. Should Doleman ever miss time, Daved Benefield and Daryl Price would be possible replacements, according to defensive coordinator Pete Carroll.

Ray Brown also missed practice time last week, also because of a knee problem, but was expected to play on Sunday.

Linebacker Gary Plummer will probably return after the bye week for the Panthers game. Plummer had a screw removed from his broken wrist last week.

WORTH NOTING

George Seifert said 1996 No. 1 draft pick Israel Ifeanyi was inactive for the opener because of a personnel decision and not an injury... Club president Carmen Policy said the team's new uniforms are in observance of the 49ers' 50th anniversary season, but that the team might make the switch permanent... DE Chris Doleman was asked before the season began if he were brought in as a hired gun. "I like to stay away from those clichés," Doleman said. "I'm just another spoke in the wheel."... The 49ers made a practice squad change, releasing CB Eric Carter and signing former Cal-Berkeley CB Reynard Rutherford.

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James Williams Re-Acquired

Cornerback James Williams was re-signed last week. The former starter for the Bills had a good preseason, but was nevertheless released in the last cutdown.

Williams was brought back, and running back Jamal Willis was released. The team was high on Willis, a rookie free agent last season, but he sustained a knee injury during the season and got very few opportunities in training camp this summer.

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GEORGE SEIFERT

Q. FROM WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN SO FAR FROM STEVE WALLACE, DO YOU SEE A LOT TO BUILD ON?

A. His run blocking wasn't bad. As far as pass blocking, this will sound funny. The encouraging thing was he wasn't the only one who got beaten. Other offensive linemen clearly

got beaten, also. It was not like there was one guy who was the only one. It means we have room for improvement with everybody. But for the amount of time they all worked together and the way the offense was presented to the defense, I thought it was good.

Q. IS WALLACE A STOP-GAP OR DO YOU THINK HE CAN PLAY THE WHOLE SEASON?

A. It remains to be seen. He's back with us. He's had a couple of days practice with us. He starts the game. We win the game. He did some good things. He had a couple of problems also, as you might expect. But it wasn't horrendous. It's got to get better. But I could point to a number of players who've been here from the start who made maybe as many mistakes.

Q. ARE THE PROBLEMS HE HAD SIMILAR TO THE ONES HE HAD LAST YEAR?

A. No. I don't think Steve played all that badly last year.

I don't think he was as good as he was in prior years. We were in a cap situation. There were a lot of things that played into (Wallace being released). Kirk Scrafford had played so well, we had to make some room (with the salary cap) somewhere. Those were all the elements. Maybe under different circumstances he would have never left the club and we would have kept everybody. But under the circumstances now, we can't do that. Really, we were very fortunate the way it played out.

Q. WHY DOES THE OFFENSIVE LINE GET SO MANY INJURIES?

A. I don't know. You get to a certain stage in your life and your career when you're been knocked around for so many years. And we have some players on the offensive line who've played for a number of years. The injuries stack up through high school and through college, then years they play as professionals. And those things start adding up.

Q. ARE THEY SUBJECTED TO MORE SITUATIONS THAT CAUSE INJURIES?

A. They are from the standpoint of the athletes they're facing and the way their bodies are contorted and the piles that always seem to occur and guys falling across each other's legs.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO KEEP THE QUARTERBACK FROM GETTING HIT?

A. We try to account for it as much as we can and we continue to do that. There are some things, yes. And then there are some things that are just the nature of the quarterback we have, too. As you noticed (in the Saints game) Jim Everett

didn't get sacked, and Everett maybe got hit once or twice in the course of the game. The ball was going all over the place, too. By the nature of the man (Steve Young) we have, he's going to take some hits where some others might not.

Q. DO YOU CAUTION STEVE YOUNG NOT TO RUN FOR MORE YARDS THAN WHAT'S NEEDED FOR THE FIRST DOWN?

A. He's trying to win the game. He's a competitive player. I think he feels more vulnerable when he's sliding, as opposed to when he's doing one of his Bronko Nagurskis. And I believe he's correct. Watching him out there, he seems to take fewer direct hits and more glancing blows.

Q. IS (RUNNING BACK) TERRY KIRBY GOING TO GET MORE PLAYING TIME?

A. I believe he might, yes. As far as him picking up all the audibles, it's something that'll take a little more time. And he'll be ready for that. I'm impressed by his knowledge and the way he's into the game. He's going to come along pretty well.

Q. WILL HIS ROLE BE TO RELIEVE DEREK LOVILLE?

A. Initially, and then we'll see where that takes us and then we'll kind of see where we go from there. We're fortunate to have him, and I guess the game of football is always competitive. Somebody is always trying to become the No. 1 guy. If you let your guard down, somebody can come in if that somebody demonstrates he's better. As a coach, you can never say there's not competition even once you get into the season. ○

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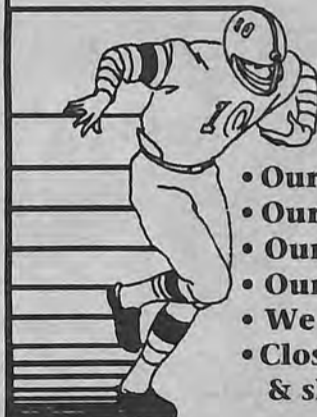
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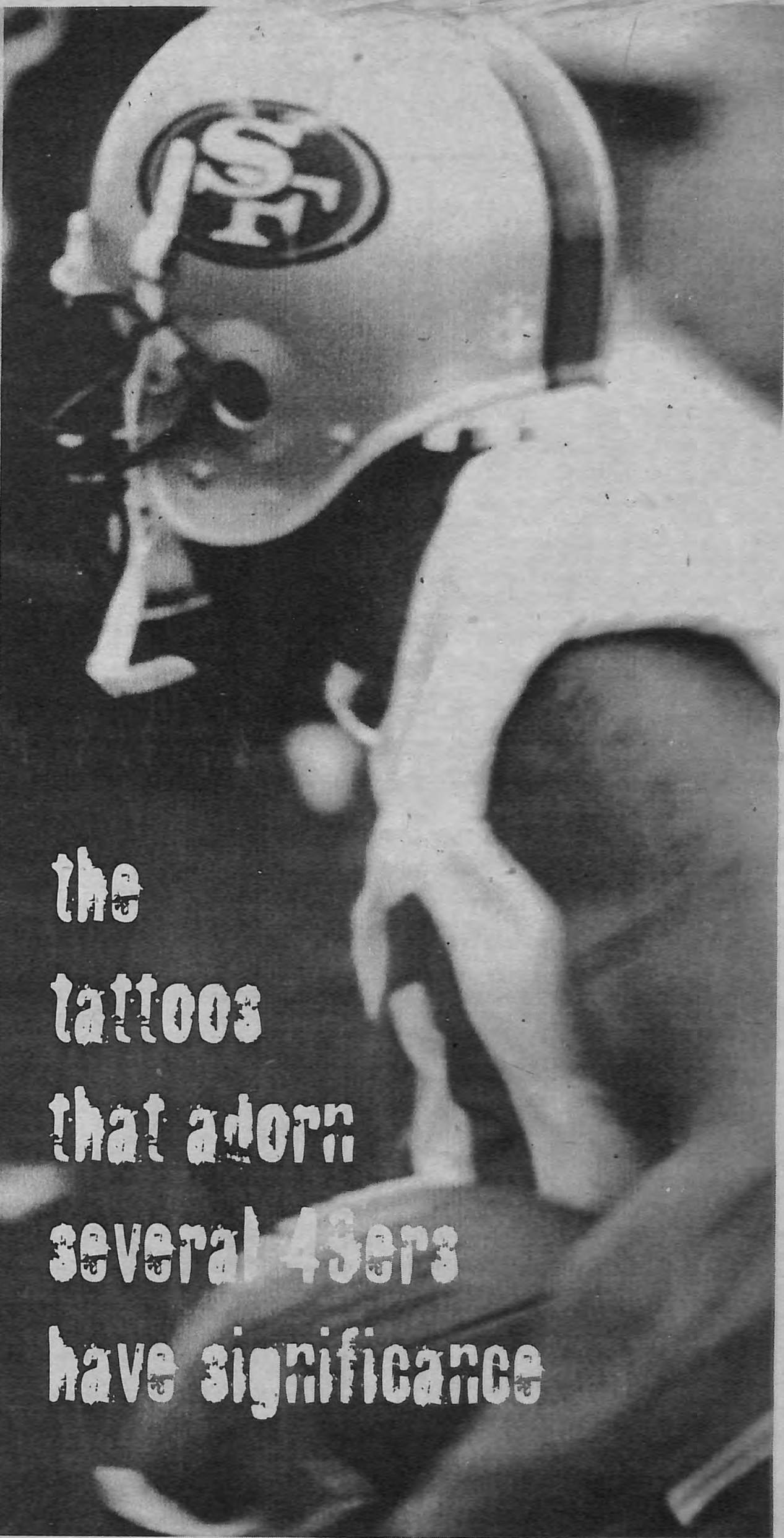
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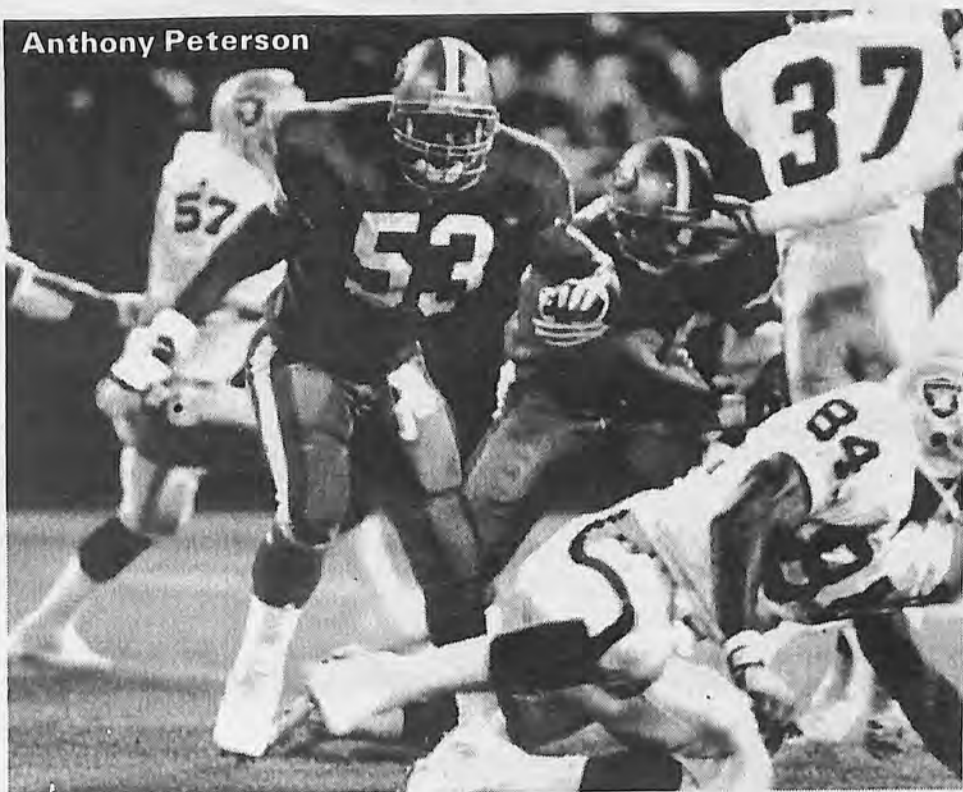
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Off - showing

the
tattoos
that adorn
several 49ers
have significance



Anthony Peterson



By Kevin Lynch

tattoo me!

The tattoo craze is sweeping the nation and several 49ers have been caught in its bristles. We counted and talked to 13 Niners who have embroidered their bodies with the indelible stamps.

Some excused their tattoos as a sign of youthful folly, while others revealed the heart-rending significance behind their deeply personal symbols. Here's their tales of tattoos:

jesse sapolu

He had a dragon tattooed on his substantial right calf in the '94 off-season. Sapolu returned to his native Western Samoa and re-united with childhood friends he hadn't seen for 15 years. His chums had a surprise in store for their cohort, who rose to renown as a four-time Super Bowl participant.

"It was one of those deals that came up all of sudden," Sapolu said.

"It was like, you have to take something back with you."

"They wouldn't let him off that island without a tattoo," is how guard Derrick Deese put it.

Sapolu's friends apparently lured him to a fly-infested grass hut on a humid afternoon. Then they demanded Sapolu get a tattoo the old-fashioned way, with ink from a native plant mixture applied with a scorchingly hot animal tooth.

"I guessed they tested my manhood, so to speak," Sapolu said. "If I had refused, they might think other things."

Like maybe Jess had become a mainland softy, spoiled by the riches he had earned in his years in the NFL.

Sapolu didn't disappoint his lifelong friends. That painful afternoon and the dragon that curls around his calf are enduring testaments to his past.

terry kirby

The newest tattoo and the story of the guy who wears it has a lot in common with the Niners' most senior member. Like Sapolu's, running back Terry Kirby's tattoo is a salute to friendship.

Kirby has a Chargers helmet with No. 92 embroidered on his arm. It's for linebacker David Griggs, a fellow University of Virginia alumnus who died in a car accident in June, 1995.

"I was with him that night," Kirby said.

Kirby was talking to Griggs on a cellular phone when the car spun out of control.

"I don't get them (tattoos) just to get them," Kirby said. "They have to have significance behind them."

Kirby's planning to get another tattoo, this time to commemorate his father, who died this past June.

anthony peterson

When asked how the bull on linebacker Anthony Peterson's chest came about, Peterson says, "silly-assed, dumb-assed college kid decision."

Notre Dame football players Peterson, defensive tackle Bryant Young (now with the Niners) and offensive lineman Aaron Taylor (now with the Packers) ventured to Chicago for a night of revelry. Two of them departed with tattoos.

"I got a bull and Aaron got a panther," Peterson said. "Aaron thinks his tattoo represents his essence, that of a panther. And he says my tat-

too represents my essence, as a bull. But I think that's bull——"

Peterson said that with a laugh.

Peterson has asked his friends in his home town of Monongahela, Pa., to keep their issues of 49ers Report away from his grandmother. She doesn't know about his bullish chest and would be aghast to find out.

Peterson nearly revealed the tattoo to her himself, unknowingly of course. It was right after a Thanksgiving feast and Peterson was pulling up his shirt to give his overstuffed stomach ample breathing space. But in the midst of hiking up his shirt, he caught a glimpse of his mother who was seated next to his grandmother across the table. When his mother's eyes grew to the size of dinner plates, Peterson realized his tattoo was showing. He had pulled his shirt up enough to reveal the hoofs of the bull, but his grandmother wasn't looking.

"She's not going to read this is she?" Peterson asked.

The topic of tattoos allowed Peterson to get in a dig at Young, who didn't get a tattoo with Taylor and Peterson that time.

"He was scared to tears when they saw them burn that bull into my chest," Peterson said in his howling laugh.

Of course, Young has a different story.

bryant young

"I wasn't scared," Young said in a voice that rumbled deep within his 275-pound frame. "I was just checking it out."

One would tend to believe Young's representation of the fact, because he went back later to get a tattoo of his own. Adorning his sizable right deltoid is a rotweiler lying down.

"Rotweilers are cool and calm," said Young, a dog enthusiast. "But once you mess with them, they might attack. Those are probably the best dogs in terms of

obedience and temperament."

Young had a rotweiler of his own that he was forced to give up.

"I wasn't taking care of him in the proper way," Young said. "I gave him to some friends who are giving him a lot of care."

If Young ever misses his furry friend, he has a constant reminder of him stamped right there on his arm.

derek loville

Loville, a running back, is tied for the club lead in tattoos with three. Each has special significance.

On his back is a panther and words in an Asian language that translate to "one love." It's for his son, Che' (pronounced Shea), who died of sudden infant death syndrome in the summer of 1992.

The rest of his tattoos seem to be about how he responded from that tragedy, and his continuing battle for respect in the NFL.

Loville impressed the 49ers in training camp, 1993, but was shelved and eventually released after he suffered a knee injury.

Loville was invited back in 1994 and he won a spot on the team. Last year, after the departure of Ricky Watters, Loville won the starter's job in training camp. He won it again this year.

Fittingly, he has a tattoo ringing one arm with the word "unsung" on it.

On the other arm is a pattern with more Asian words that translate to "courage and strength." Without those two elements Loville never would have gone from rookie free agent to starter on a championship football team.

elvis grbac

On one ankle the 49ers' backup quarterback has an ornate cross and a red rose and labeled with Croatian words that mean "preferred city."

Grbac's parents are Croatian born. The tattoo is in memory of Grbac's father. It also represents all the people who have died in the wars of independence that have raged in the former Yugoslavia for years.

derrick deese

Deese has a large panther cloaking one calf.

"My girl and I decided to get it one day," Deese said.

Deese had the tattoo enlarged in the off-season.

"People kept saying my legs were small, so I got a bigger one," he said. "One of the first things I heard when I came back this year was, 'Are your legs bigger?'"

tyronne drakeford

The starting left cornerback has three tattoos to represent his play on the field. On his back is a tiger. His arm, a panther. And his chest, a scorpion.

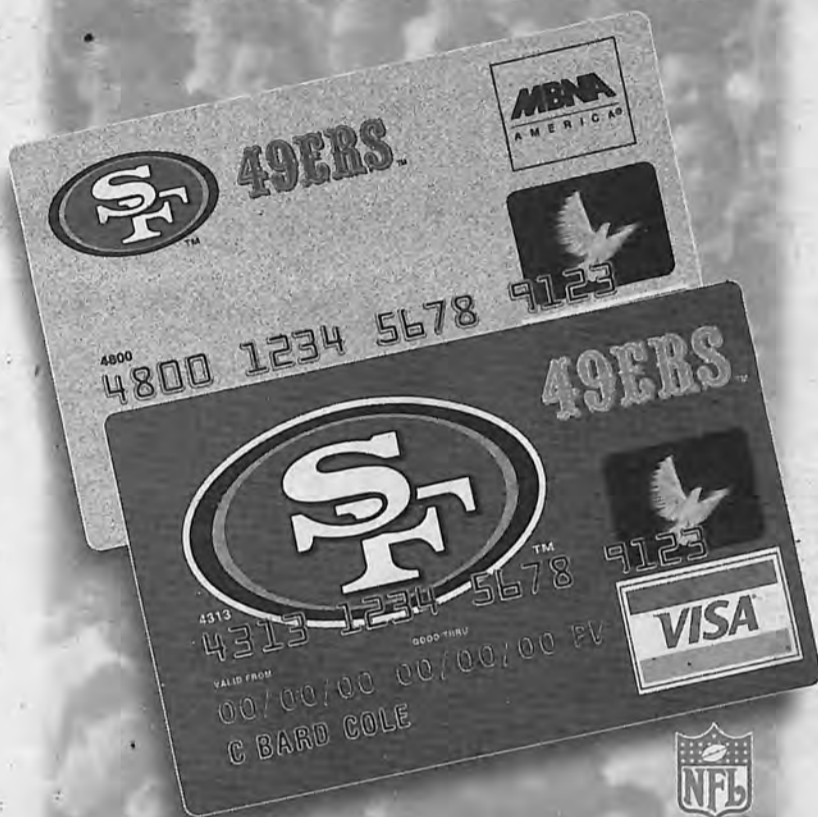
"The panther and the tiger are pretty similar," Drakeford said. "They represent



Bryant Young

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speed and power. If they see something as prey they go after it. I see prey as the receiver.

"The scorpion has a quick bite. It's like jamming (a receiver) at the line of scrimmage. It's a quick attack."

Drakeford needs only to look at himself to remind him of what kind of game he wants to play before he suits up.

dedrick dodge

Dedrick Dodge has a simple slogan gracing his right deltoid—"represent," it reads.

"It's for my grandmother and all the people who raised me," Dodge said. "Every time I'm out in public I represent my folks."

Dodge represents the entire town of Mulberry, Fla., basically. As its most famous resident Dodge was honored with a parade held for him in Mulberry last year.

Dodge is planning another tattoo with the theme of blood, sweat and tears.

"To come up from where I came from took a lot of blood, a lot of sweat and a lot of crying," Dodge said.

marquez pope

Sometimes tattoos seem to appear magically, as if it's an outward manifestation of the soul. That's true for cornerback Marquez Pope, who sprouted the word "warriors" on his arm over the off-season.

"I'm having fun playing," Pope said. "It's a battle. It's just an expression of myself."

jerry rice

A few years ago, Rice got his arm tattooed with a helmet and his No. 80 inside it.

"I wanted something unique," he said.

Rice also said it was his last tattoo.

"You ever had one? They hurt. I don't see how these guys get these huge tattoos."

And this from a man who has had to

endure the pain of never missing a game in his 11-year career.

William Floyd

Floyd has several tattoos and brands. Most are associated with his college fraternity, Omega Psi Phi. The prominent one is of a bulldog stamped on his chest. He also has a panther on his forearm.

"I just got that because I was 19 and had nothing else to do," Floyd said. "I will probably get that one removed."

Floyd's fraternity brothers gave him flack for the panther, because he was looked upon as a bulldog in his fraternity.

"I caught a lot of heat for that, with the dog and the cat."

lee woodall

Woodall, a linebacker, is the king of the 49ers' tattoos. He might as well have a sign on his back that says "Under Construction."

Woodall has a huge tattoo of a panther encircled by a sun that nearly covers his entire back. The picture won't be finished until the off-season, when Woodall plans to add some color to it.


"Different people have seen it, and said it's great artwork," Woodall said.

For him, it also has meaning, particularly the symbolism of the sun.

"It represents creation, creativity, strength, power, happiness," he said. "When it's sunny people are usually happy. It makes me feel different."

Woodall also has a scorpion tattooed on his chest, which probably gives him the largest percentage of skin covered by tattoos than any other Niner.

He also says a few more might be coming, but warns, "I'm no Dennis Rodman. I'm not going to marry myself."

Thirteen people with 13 different slants on their body stamps. It's no wonder teams who play the 49ers often FEEL tattooed. 

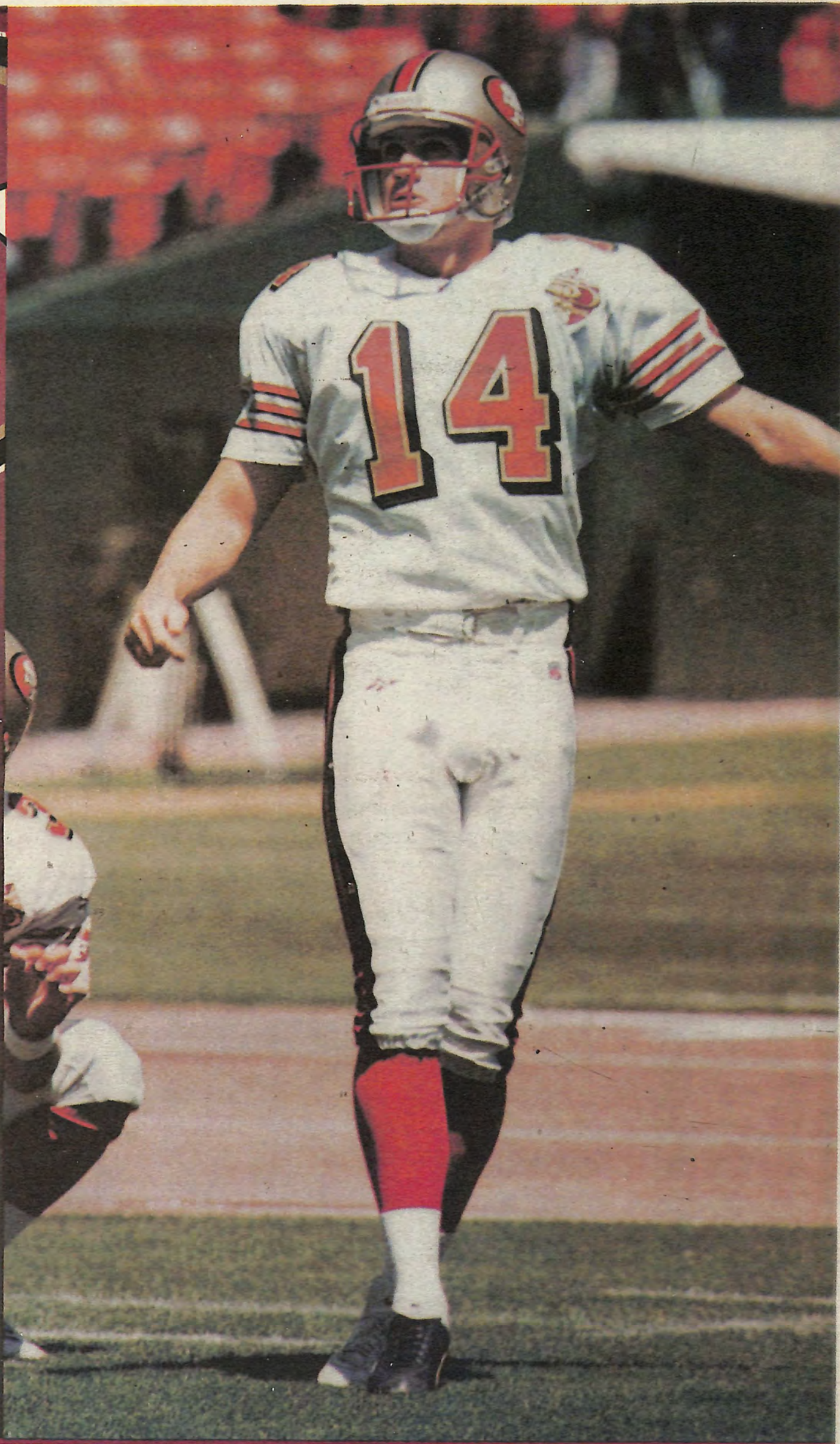
Lee Woodall





Jeff Wilkins

Kicker

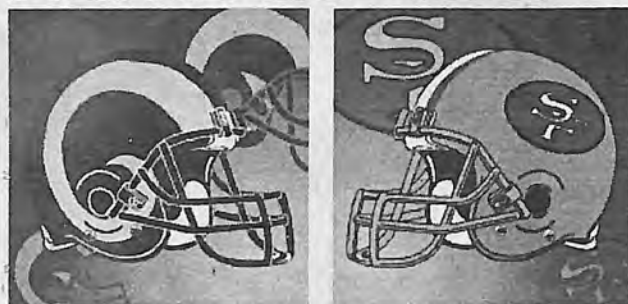


San Francisco 49ers

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Niners Continue Their Mastery Over Rams

Rams at 49ers



	1	2	3	4	F
Rams	0	0	0	0	0
49ers	0	14	3	17	34

49ERS

Improve to 2-0 entering by week

RAMS

Now 1-1 after 12th straight loss to 49ers

STEVE YOUNG

15-of-18 passing, 138 yards

ELVIS GRBAC

6-of-12 passing, 86 yards

TONY BANKS

6-of-17 passing, 69 yards

JERRY RICE

7 receptions, 99 yards

49ERS

Outgain Rams 224-114 passing

RAMS

36 yards rushing on 16 attempts

49ERS

7 sacks for 45 yards

By Kevin Lynch

Somewhere over the Western United States, the Rams finally took a breath. For four quarters their offense was suffocated by a defense belonging to the 49ers that dominated them in a 34-0 victory.

That put the Niners in a tie for first place in the NFC West with the Panthers, who are only in their second season in the league. Both are 2-0 and will play each other in Charlotte next week following a bye.

But while the Panthers are hopeful, for these Rams it's simply a new chapter in a continuing story of the Niners' annihilation of them. The Rams have changed coaches, cities and players, but by the end of day the 49ers were delivering their bi-annual thrashing.

The 49ers have beaten the Rams 12 straight times. In the last three games the 49ers have outscored them 119-13.

"I'm not going to say it," said safety Tim McDonald, who last year got in a bit of trouble when he said it was "the same old Rams and the same old 49ers."

THIS TIME, McDonald said, "I have no comment to make about the Rams."

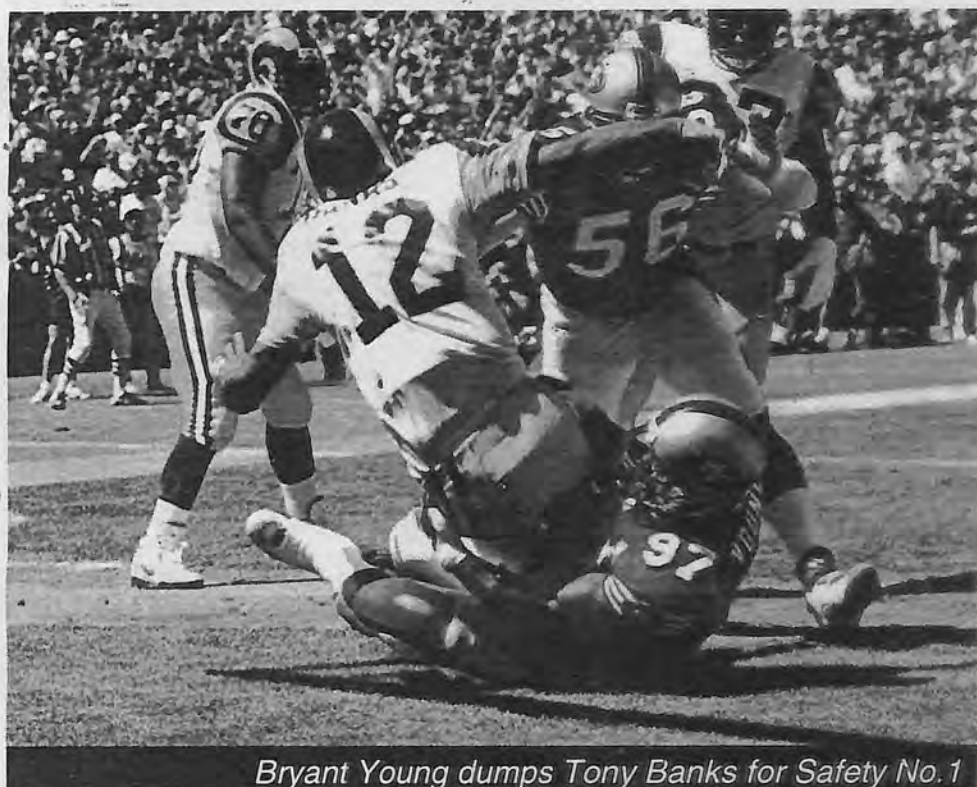
The 49ers seemed to have done all their talking on the field after flooring the Rams once again.

The Rams tried everything to get some semblance of an offense going, including yanking starting quarterback Steve Walsh early in the second quarter and inserting rookie Tony Banks. Unfortunately for Banks they did it with the Rams on their own 1-yard line.

"I was shocked," Niners guard Ray Brown said. "I said, 'Is that the rookie?' That's the kind of decision that can affect them down the road."

A play later, Banks wound up on his back, in the arms of defensive tackle Bryant Young for a safety. That was part of a career day for Young, who finished with three sacks, six tackles and a fumble recovery.

While Bryant Young was terrorizing the offense, quarterback Steve Young was on the sideline. Young aggravated a pulled upper groin when he sprinted for an 11-yard gain in the third quarter. It was an injury he incurred in the opener against the Saints, then aggravated in the first quarter when he was chased out of bounds. Young is probable for the game against the Panthers. Luckily, the 49ers have a bye, which allows Young to give the injury adequate rest.



Bryant Young dumps Tony Banks for Safety No. 1

Despite the pulled muscle Young wanted to continue. "It's the adrenaline," Young said. "I can't explain it. Maybe I'm just not very mature."

With the defense so awesome, the 49ers simply didn't need Young. In fact, they didn't need their offense at all. For the first time in team history, the 49ers notched two safeties in one game. They also had three fumble-causing sacks that led to an additional 10 points.

"In meetings we (offensive players) have to say we scored 34 points," guard Derrick Deese said. "But then we say, 'But how much of that was scored by the defense?'"

THE NINERS GOT THEIR SECOND safety when Joe Valerio air-mailed his snap over punter Sean Landeta, who decided to kick the ball through the end zone instead of risking life and limb by falling on it.

The 49ers had gone 74 games without a safety, then recorded two in one game. It was just one indication of their total monopolization of the Rams. Another was their seven sacks, and another was the fact the Rams didn't cross their own 30-yard line until the third quarter. They didn't pass midfield until 2:17 of the third quarter.

The 49ers also forced three fumbles and had an interception. In the last three meetings they've induced the Rams into a dozen turnovers. The turnovers stymied an already struggling offense and put a strain on the defense.

"As the (offense's) mistakes mounted," Coach Rich Brooks said, "our defense wore down, and the 49ers took advantage of that."

For the second game in a row the 49ers showed greater commitment to the run. They rushed 42 times, more than they did in any of their games last year.

"(The defense's play) allowed us to run the ball, and

W24-0

Young No Cause For Concern

You could tell something was wrong as 49ers quarterback Steve Young galloped like a broken-down draft horse on a third-quarter scramble against the Rams on Sunday.

Limping. Wincing. If it looked painful to watch, it was much worse for Young, who suffered a groin strain on an earlier play that aggravated an injury he sustained the week before.

The good news is Young should be back against the Panthers on Sept. 22, thanks to this week's bye.

"I don't think it's bad," Young said. "I think it'll be fine. I hurt it when I was throwing it away. I'd hurt it last week running out of bounds, then I rehabilitated it during the week. It really felt great. I thought I'd made it totally better, but it got me funny."

Likening the injury to ones incurred by former Niners Eric Wright and Eric Davis, Young thinks specific stomach-strengthening exercises should correct the problem.

"I probably should have been doing them anyway, but it should be fine," Young said.

Young, who completed 15 of 18 passes for 138 yards, admitted he felt a groin twinge in the first half, but played through it. When the pain became too great later, George Seifert pulled the plug.

"Maybe I should have had him come out two plays earlier," Seifert said. "He's got the heart of a tiger and wanted to come back."

Thanks to the defense, Young could afford to let Elvis Grbac take over. The pressure was off the offense, and Young stood on the sideline admiring the shutout.

"Our defense looks like it's running downhill," Young said. "It really does. And it looks like the other team is playing uphill."

— Dick Draper

that's helpful," Young said.

IN FACT, THE 49ERS might have run too much, particularly when they entered the red zone. The Niners ventured past the Rams' 20-yard line eight times, but managed just three touchdowns and were denied the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 2 in the second quarter.

"I'd like to have the ball in my hands (in red-zone situations)," Young said.


He'd like to throw into the end zone, something the 49ers failed to do in their eight trips into the red zone.

Despite 42 attempts, the most in one game in two years, they gained just 129 yards rushing. But they were effective in controlling the clock (they had possession for 38:37).

They were also able to accommodate Derek Loville, who had been asking to run the draw out of the one-back set. Loville got that chance three times and the result was one 7-yard run, a 3-yard gain, and a two-yard touchdown.

But with a smothering defense, it doesn't seem to matter what the offense does.

"You haven't even seen our best football yet," defensive tackle Dana Stubblefield said.

In light of the whitewash of the Rams, that's a scary thought. 

HOW THEY SCORED

SECOND QUARTER

49ERS — Safety, Tony Banks tackled in end zone. Time remaining: 11:44. 49ERS 2-0.

49ERS — Derek Loville 2-yard run (Jeff Wilkins kick). Drive: 10 plays, 59 yards. Time of possession: 5:54. Time remaining: 5:50. Key plays: Loville 13 run; Jerry Rice 5 pass from Steve Young. 49ERS 9-0.

49ERS — Wilkins 38-yard field goal. Drive: 8 plays, 47 yards. Time of possession: 2:09. Time remaining: :45. Key plays: J.J. Stokes 21 pass from Young; Rice 9 pass from Young; Stokes 28 pass from Young. 49ERS 12-0.

49ERS — Safety, ball snapped out of end zone. Time remaining: :09. 49ERS 14-0.

THIRD QUARTER

49ERS — Wilkins 22-yard field goal. Drive: 6 plays, 15 yards. Time of possession: 3:18. Time remaining: 3:47. Key plays: Chris Doleman fumble recovery at Rams' 19; Loville 7 run. 49ERS 17-0.

FOURTH QUARTER

49ERS — Wilkins 21-yard field goal. Drive: 10 plays, 77 yards. Time of possession: 3:53. Time remaining: 10:13. Key plays: Rice 24 pass from Elvis Grbac; Rice 39 pass from Grbac. 49ERS 20-0.

49ERS — Tommy Vardell 1-yard run (Wilkins kick). Drive: 5 plays, 51 yards. Time of possession: 2:57. Time remaining: 6:42. Key plays: Stokes 13 pass from Grbac; Rice 24 pass from Grbac. 49ERS 27-0.

49ERS — Dexter Carter 1-yard run (Wilkins kick). Drive: 5 plays, 19 yards. Time of possession: 2:40. Time remaining: 3:15. Key plays: Bryant Young fumble recovery on Rams' 19; Carter 11 run. 49ERS 34-0.

WORTH NOTING

SAFETY RECORD: The two safeties the 49ers scored on Sunday was a team record. It was the 14th time in NFL history a team scored two safeties in one game. The league record is three safeties in one game scored by the Rams versus the Giants on Sept. 30, 1984.

PREVIOUSLY: The last time the 49ers had a safety was Nov. 25, 1991, against the Rams. LB Darin Jordan scored it.

SEVEN-YEAR DROUGHT: The shutout was the first for the 49ers since Dec. 24, 1989, when they blanked the Bears, 26-0. The last time the Niners shut out the Rams was Oct. 28, 1984 (33-0).

THEY'RE SPECIAL PLAYERS: The special teams players took a lot of heat during the preseason for poor snapping, missed field goals, a blocked kick and mediocre coverage. The regular season, however, has seen a 180-degree turnaround. "It was a new scheme and now we're starting to get in the groove," said Jeff Wilkins, who booted field goals of 38, 22 and 21 yards. "And we can't stop now." Tommy Thompson is also doing well, averaging 44.4 yards on 10 punts.

HANKS NEARLY SIGNED: FS Merton Hanks should sign his seven-year, \$22.5 million contract Wednesday or Thursday, according to 49ers vice president Dwight Clark.

WALLACE STRONG: OT Steve Wallace, berated for his poor play in the season opener, more than held his own against Rams DE Leslie O'Neal. O'Neal had only one tackle and no sacks.

INJURY REPORT: For the second straight season, WR Nate Singleton broke his left clavicle. Singleton missed 11 games with the injury last year. Listed as probable for the Panthers game are CB Tyrone Drakeford (knee), SMerton Hanks (leg), OT Steve Wallace (cramps), DT Bryant Young (elbow), QB Steve Young (groin).

RICE COOKING: With his seven receptions, WR Jerry Rice surpassed 950 catches for his career. He now has 954. Rice was just 1 yard away from a 100-yard receiving game. He needs two games of 100 yards or more receiving to have 50 in his career.

BUSY GUY: Rams LB Roman Phifer matched his career high with 14 solo tackles on Sunday. He also had 14 solos against the 49ers on Sept. 22, 1995. He had a career-high 17 total tackles in that game.

ODDS & ENDS: Coach George Seifert planned liberal substitutions on defense in the fourth quarter, but defensive players talked him out of it because they wanted a shutout. The 49ers are 18-1 in the last two seasons when they rush for more than more than 100 yards. The 49ers have scored in 292 straight games, a continuing league record. The last time they were shut out was in Oct. 9, 1977 against the Falcons (7-0). The Niners are 83-7 when scoring 21 points or more since George Seifert became head coach. Rice has not caught a TD pass in 18 quarters. QB Steve Young is 62-38 in games in which he starts. FB Tommy Vardell's six receptions was a career high. The 49ers hadn't notched a sack in 85 plays before getting seven on Sunday. It was the most sacks since Dec. 17, 1994, when they also had seven.

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Chris Doleman

Chris Doleman was named Player of the Game after a team-leading five solo tackles, one sack, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.



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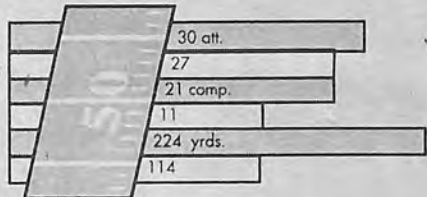
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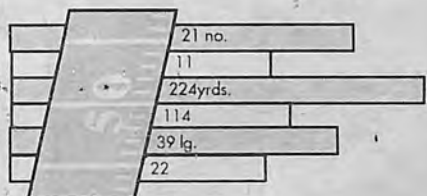
BY THE NUMBERS

GAME STATS

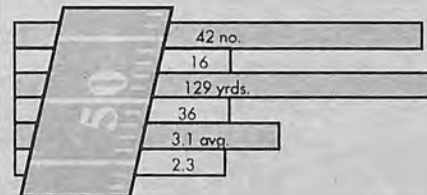
PASSING	Att	Comp	Yds	Sks/Yds	TD	Lg	Int
49ers							
Young	18	15	138	1/2	0	28	0
Grbac	12	6	86	0/0	0	39	0
Total	30	21	224	1/2	0	39	0
Rams							
Banks	17	6	69	4/19	0	22	0
Walsh	6	2	13	1/8	0	7	1
Martin	4	3	32	1/6	0	18	0
Phillips	0	0	0	1/12	0	0	0
Total	27	11	114	7/45	0	22	1



RECEIVING	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Rice	7	99	39	0
Vardell	6	31	13	0
Stokes	3	62	28	0
Jones	3	26	12	0
Loville	2	6	5	0
Totals	21	224	39	0
Rams				
Bruce	4	52	22	0
Laing	2	25	22	0
Green	2	15	9	0
Ross	1	13	13	0
Drayton	1	6	6	0
Harris	1	3	3	0
Totals	11	114	22	0



RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
49ers					
Loville	12	49	4.1	12	1
Vardell	17	44	2.6	7	1
Young	4	14	3.5	11	0
Lynn	1	8	8.0	8	0
Rice	1	3	3.0	3	0
Grbac	1	1	1.0	1	0
Brohm	3	-5	-1.7	-1	0
Total	42	129	3.1	12	3
Rams					
Phillips	9	15	1.7	6	0
Green	3	10	3.3	7	0
Robinson	2	6	3.0	4	0
Harris	1	3	3.0	3	0
Banks	1	2	2.0	2	0
Total	16	36	2.3	7	0



INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Pope	1	25	25	0
Total	1	25	25	0
Rams				
None	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Carter	1	27	27	0
Deese	1	12	12	0
Singleton	1	10	10	0
Total	3	49	27	0
Rams				
Kennison	2	36	26	0
Thomas	2	31	19	0
Total	4	67	26	0

PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
49ers						
Thompson	3	125	41.7	2	1	51
Total	3	125	41.7	2	1	51
Rams						
Landeta	6	232	38.7	1	0	45
Total	6	232	38.7	1	0	45

PUNT RETURNS	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers					
Carter	4	0	31	9	0
Total	4	0	31	9	0
Rams					
Kennison	0	1	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS	Rams	Niners
Total First Downs	6	23
By Rushing	1	11
By Penalty	0	4
Third Down Efficiency	2-13-15%	6-17-35%
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2-50%	1-2-50%
Total Net Yards	105	351
Total Offensive Plays	50	73
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	2.1	4.8
Net Yards Rushing	36	129
Total Rushing Plays	16	42
Avg. Gain Per Rushing Play	2.3	3.1
Net Yards Passing	69	222
Times Thrown/Yards Lost	7/45	1/2
Gross Yards Passing	114	224
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	27-11-1	30-21-0
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	2.0	7.2
Punts/Average	6-38.7	3-41.7
Had Blocked	0	0
Yards on Punt Returns	0	31
Yards on Kickoff Returns	67	49
Yards on Interception Returns	0	25
Penalties/Yards	11-82	5-45
Fumbles/Lost	5/3	1/0
Touchdowns	0	3
Rushing	0	3
Passing	0	0
Returns	0	0
Extra points Made/Attempted	0/0	3/3
Kicking Made/Attempts	0/0	3/3
Passing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Rushing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Field Goals Made/Attempted	0/0	3/4
Time of Possession	21:23	38:37

SEASON STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Opponents
Total First Downs	46	20
By Rushing	21	3
By Passing	20	14
Third Down Made/Att.	11/33	6/28
Third Down Efficiency	33.3	21.4
Fourth Down Made/Att.	2/3	1/2
Fourth Down Efficiency	66.7	50.0
Total Net Yards	689	336
Avg. Per Game	344.5	168.0
Total Offensive Plays	145	109
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	4.8	3.1
Net Yards Rushing	286	92
Avg. Per Game	143.0	46.0
Total Rushing Plays	80	34
Net Yards Passing	403	244
Avg. Per Game	201.5	122
Sacks/Yards Lost	4/20	7/45
Gross Yards Passing	423	289
Att./Comp.	61/39	68/27
Pct. of Completions	63.9	39.7
Had Intercepted	0	2
Punts/Average	10/44.5	14/38.6
Penalties/Yards	13/128	17/131
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	5/3
Touchdowns	6	1
Rushing	6	0
Passing	0	1
Returns	0	0

SCORING	Name	TDR	TDP	TDR+PAT	FG	S	2pt	TP
Wilkins	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	21
Loville	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Vardell	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Rice	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Carter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Team	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	
Total	6	0	0	6	5	2	0	61
Opp. Total	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	11

RECEIVING					
Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Rice	12	187	15.6	39	0
Vardell	10	57	5.7	15	0
Stokes	7	114	16.3	28	0
Loville	5	21	4.2	6	0
Jones	4	33	8.3	12	0
Singleton	1	11	11.0	11	0
Total	39	423	10.8	39	0
Opp. Total	27	289	10.7	28	1

RUSHING						
Name	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Loville	28	110	3.9	14	2	
Young	10	66	6.6	21	0	
Vardell	25	77	3.1	17	2	
Lynn	3	16	5.3	8	0	
Carter	3	15	5.0	11	1	
Kirby	2	4	2.0	4	0	
Rice	2	5	2.5	3	1	
Grbac	4	-2	-0.5	1	0	
Brohm	3	-5	-1.7	-1	0	
Total	80	286	3.6	21	0	
Opp. Total	34	92	2.7	22	0	

PASSING	Name	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	Avg/Att	TD	%TD	Int	%Int	Lg	Lost/Att
Young	47	33	337	70.2	7.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	38	4/20
Grbac	14	6	86	42.9	6.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	39	0/0
Total	61	39	423	63.9	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	39	4/20
Opp. Total	68	27	289	39.7	4.3	1	1.8	2	2.9	2.9	28	7/45

FIELD GOALS	Name	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Wilkins	0/0	4/4	1/1	0/1	0/0	5/6	
Total	0/0	4/4	1/1	0/1	0/0	5/6	
Opp. Total	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0	1/1	

PUNTING	Name	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
Thompson	10	444	44.4	2	5	57	
Total	10	444	44.4	2	5	57	
Opp. Total	14	541	38.6	2	0	60	

PUNT RETURNS	Name	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Carter	5	1	36	7.2	9	0	
Singleton	2	0	32	16.0	21	0	
Total	7	1	68	9.7	21	0	
Opp. Total	3	3	16	5.3	10	0	

KICKOFF RETURNS	Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Carter	4	95	23.8	42	0	
Deese	1	12	12.0	12	0	
Singleton	1	10	10.0	10	0	
Total	3	68	22.7	42	0	
Opp. Total	8	182	27.8	56	0	

Sacks: B. Young (2), Barker (1), Brown (1), Doleman (1), Drakeford (1), Woodall (1)

Special Teams Tackles: Israel (2), Lynn (2), Peterson (1), Price (1), Benefield (1), Bryant (1), Singleton (1), Williams (1)

Misc. Tackles:

INTERCEPTIONS			
Name	No	Yds	Avg
McDonald	1	14	14.0
Pope	1	25	25.0
Total	2	39	19.5
Opp. Total	0	0	0.0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS			
Name	Tackles	Assists	Total
Norton	9	2	11
Pope	8	0	8
Mitchell	7	1	8
Doleman	6	1	7
McDonald	5	0	5
Hanks	5	0	5
Barker	4	0	4
Drakeford	4	0	4
Young	3	1	4
Israel	3	0	3
Woodall	2	1	3
Brown	2	0	2
Dodge	2	0	2
Stubblefield	2	0	2
Bryant	1	0	1

1996

NFL SCHEDULE

STANDINGS

AFC

East

	W	L	PF	PA
Bills	2	0	40	30
Colts	2	0	41	20
Dolphins	2	0	48	10
Jets	0	2	13	52
Patriots	0	2	20	41

Cent.

	W	L	PF	PA
Jaguars	1	1	51	43
Oilers	1	1	53	47
Ravens	1	1	36	45
Steelers	1	1	40	41
Bengals	0	2	30	53

West

	W	L	PF	PA
Broncos	2	0	61	26
Chargers	2	0	56	21
Chiefs	2	0	39	22
Raiders	0	2	17	38
Seahawks	0	2	27	59

NFC

East

	W	L	PF	PA
Eagles	1	0	17	14
Cowboys	1	1	33	22
Redskins	1	1	24	20
Cardinals	0	2	13	44
Giants	0	2	20	50

Cent.

	W	L	PF	PA
Packers	1	0	34	3
Vikings	2	0	40	30
Bears	1	1	25	16
Buccaneers	0	2	9	55
Lions	1	1	34	23

West

	W	L	PF	PA
49ers	2	0	61	11
Panthers	2	0	51	26
Rams	1	1	26	50
Falcons	0	2	23	52
Saints	0	2	31	49

American Football Conference



BILLS

2-0

Sept. 1	at Giants	23-20 O.T.
Sept. 8	at Patriots	17-10
Sept. 16	at Steelers	
Sept. 22	at Cowboys	
Sept. 29	OPEN	
Oct. 6	at Colts	
Oct. 13	at Dolphins	
Oct. 20	at Jets	
Oct. 27	at Patriots	
Nov. 3	at Redskins	
Nov. 10	at Eagles	
Nov. 17	at Bengals	
Nov. 24	at Jets	
Dec. 1	at Colts	
Dec. 8	at Seahawks	
Dec. 15	at Dolphins	
Dec. 22	at Chiefs	

COLTS

2-0

Sept. 1	Cardinals	20-13
Sept. 8	at Jets	21-7
Sept. 15	at Cowboys	
Sept. 22	at Dolphins	
Sept. 29	OPEN	
Oct. 6	at Bills	
Oct. 13	at Ravens	
Oct. 20	at Patriots	
Oct. 27	at Redskins	
Nov. 3	at Chargers	
Nov. 10	at Dolphins	
Nov. 17	at Jets	
Nov. 24	at Patriots	
Dec. 1	at Bills	
Dec. 8	at Eagles	
Dec. 15	at Chiefs	
Dec. 22	at Bengals	

DOLPHINS

2-0

Sept. 1	at Patriots	24-10
Sept. 8	at Cardinals	24-0
Sept. 15	at Jets	
Sept. 22	at Colts	
Sept. 29	OPEN	
Oct. 6	at Seahawks	
Oct. 13	at Bills	
Oct. 20	at Eagles	
Oct. 27	at Cowboys	
Nov. 3	at Patriots	
Nov. 10	at Colts	
Nov. 17	at Oilers	
Nov. 24	at Steelers	
Dec. 1	at Raiders	
Dec. 8	at Giants	
Dec. 15	at Bills	
Dec. 22	at Jets	

JETS

0-2

Sept. 1	at Broncos	6-31
Sept. 8	at Colts	7-21
Sept. 15	at Dolphins	
Sept. 22	at Giants	
Sept. 29	at Redskins	
Oct. 6	at Raiders	
Oct. 13	at Jaguars	
Oct. 20	at Bills	
Oct. 27	at Cardinals	
Nov. 3	OPEN	
Nov. 10	at Patriots	
Nov. 17	at Colts	
Nov. 24	at Bills	
Dec. 1	at Oilers	
Dec. 8	at Patriots	
Dec. 15	at Eagles	
Dec. 22	at Dolphins	

PATRIOTS

0-2

Sept. 1	at Dolphins	10-24
Sept. 8	at Bills	10-17
Sept. 15	at Cardinals	
Sept. 22	at Jaguars	
Sept. 29	OPEN	
Oct. 6	at Ravens	
Oct. 13	at Redskins	
Oct. 20	at Colts	
Oct. 27	at Bills	
Nov. 3	at Dolphins	
Nov. 10	at Jets	
Nov. 17	at Broncos	
Nov. 24	at Colts	
Dec. 1	at Chargers	
Dec. 8	at Jets	
Dec. 15	at Cowboys	
Dec. 22	at Giants	

BENGALS

0-2

Sept. 1	at Rams	16-26
Sept. 8	at Chargers	14-27
Sept. 15	at Saints	
Sept. 22	OPEN	
Sept. 29	at Broncos	
Oct. 6	at Oilers	
Oct. 13	at Steelers	
Oct. 20	at 49ers	
Oct. 27	at Jaguars	
Nov. 3	at Ravens	
Nov. 10	at Steelers	
Nov. 17	at Bills	
Nov. 24	at Falcons	
Dec. 1	at Jaguars	
Dec. 8	at Ravens	
Dec. 15	at Oilers	
Dec. 22	at Colts	

JAGUARS

1-1

Sept. 1	Steelers	27-34
Sept. 8	at Oilers	
Sept. 15	at Raiders	
Sept. 22	at Patriots	
Sept. 29	at Panthers	
Oct. 6	at Saints	
Oct. 13	at Jets	
Oct. 20	at Rams	
Oct. 27	at Bengals	
Nov. 3	OPEN	
Nov. 10	at Ravens	
Nov. 17	at Steelers	
Nov. 24	at Ravens	
Dec. 1	at Oilers	
Dec. 8	at Seahawks	
Dec. 15	at Falcons	
Dec. 22	at Falcons	

OILERS

1-1

Sept. 1	Chiefs	19-20
Sept. 8	at Jaguars	34-27
Sept. 15	at Ravens	
Sept. 22	OPEN	
Sept. 29	at Steelers	
Oct. 6	at Bengals	
Oct. 13	at Falcons	
Oct. 20	at Steelers	
Oct. 27	at 49ers	
Nov. 3	at Seahawks	
Nov. 10	at Saints	
Nov. 17	at Dolphins	
Nov. 24	at Panthers	
Dec. 1	at Jets	
Dec. 8	at Jaguars	
Dec. 15	at Bengals	
Dec. 22	at Ravens	

RAVENS

1-1

Sept. 1	at Raiders	19-14
Sept. 8	at Steelers	17-31
Sept. 15	at Oilers	
Sept. 22	OPEN	
Sept. 29	at Saints	
Oct. 6	at Patriots	
Oct. 13	at Colts	
Oct. 20	at Broncos	
Oct. 27	at Rams	
Nov. 3	at Bengals	
Nov. 10	at Jaguars	
Nov. 17	at 49ers	
Nov. 24	at Jaguars	
Dec. 1	at Steelers	
Dec. 8	at Bengals	
Dec. 15	at Panthers	
Dec. 22	at Oilers	

STEELERS

1-1

Sept. 1	at Jaguars	9-24
Sept. 8	at Ravens	31-17
Sept. 15	at Oilers	
Sept. 22	OPEN	
Sept. 29	at Oilers	
Oct. 6	at Chiefs	
Oct. 13	at Bengals	
Oct. 20	at Oilers	
Oct. 27	at Falcons	
Nov. 3	at Rams	
Nov. 10	at Bengals	
Nov. 17	at Jaguars	
Nov. 24	at Dolphins	
Dec. 1	at Ravens	
Dec. 8	at Chargers	
Dec. 15	at 49ers	
Dec. 22	at Panthers	

BRONCOS

2-0

Sept. 1	at Jets	31-6
Sept. 8	at Seahawks	30-20
Sept. 15	at Buccaneers	
Sept. 22	at Chiefs	
Sept. 29	at Bengals	
Oct. 6	at Chargers	
Oct. 13	OPEN	
Oct. 20	at Ravens	
Oct. 27	at Chiefs	
Nov. 3	at Raiders	
Nov. 10	at Bears	
Nov. 17	at Patriots	
Nov. 24	at Vikings	
Dec. 1	at Seahawks	
Dec. 8	at Packers	
Dec. 15	at Raiders	
Dec. 22	at Chargers	

CHARGERS

2-0

Sept. 1	Seahawks	29-7
Sept. 8	at Bengals	27-14
Sept. 15	at Packers	
Sept. 22	at Raiders	
Sept. 29	at Chiefs	
Oct. 6	at Broncos	
Oct. 13	OPEN	
Oct. 20	at Raiders	
Oct. 27	at Seahawks	
Nov. 3	at Colts	
Nov. 10	at Lions	
Nov. 17	at Buccaneers	
Nov. 24	at Chiefs	
Dec. 1	at Patriots	
Dec. 8	at Steelers	
Dec. 15	at Bears	
Dec. 22	at Broncos	

CHIEFS

2-0

Sept. 1	at Oilers	20-19
Sept. 8	at Raiders	19-3
Sept. 15	at Seahawks	
Sept. 22	at Broncos	
Sept. 29	at Chargers	
Oct. 6	at Steelers	
Oct. 13	OPEN	
Oct. 20	at Seahawks	
Oct. 27	at Broncos	
Nov. 3	at Vikings	
Nov. 10	at Packers	
Nov. 17	at Bears	
Nov. 24	at Panthers	
Nov. 28	at Lions	
Dec. 9	at Raiders	
Dec. 15	at Colts	
Dec. 22	at Bills	

RAIDERS

0-2

Sept. 1	at Ravens	14-19
Sept. 8	at Chiefs	3-19
Sept. 15	at Jaguars	
Sept. 22	at Chargers	
Sept. 29	at Bears	
Oct. 6	at Jets	
Oct. 13	at Lions	
Oct. 20	at Chargers	
Oct. 27	at Chiefs	
Nov. 3	at Broncos	
Nov. 10	at Buccaneers	
Nov. 17	at Vikings	
Nov. 24	at Seahawks	
Dec. 1	at Dolphins	
Dec. 8	at Chiefs	
Dec. 15	at Broncos	
Dec. 22	at Seahawks	

SEAHAWKS

0-2

Sept. 1	at Chargers	7-29
Sept. 8	at Broncos	20-30
Sept. 15	at Chiefs	
Sept. 22	at Buccaneers	
Sept. 29	at Packers	
Oct. 6	at Dolphins	
Oct. 13	OPEN	
Oct. 20	at Chiefs	
Oct. 27	at Chargers	
Nov. 3	at Oilers	
Nov. 10	at Vikings	
Nov. 17	at Lions	
Nov. 24	at Raiders	
Dec. 1	at Broncos	
Dec. 8	at Bills	
Dec. 15	at Jaguars	
Dec. 22	at Raiders	

National Football Conference



CARDINALS

0-2

Sept. 1	at Colts	13-20
Sept. 8	at Dolphins	0-24
Sept. 15	at Patriots	
Sept. 22	at Saints	
Sept. 29	at Rams	
Oct. 6	OPEN	
Oct. 13	at Cowboys	
Oct. 20	at Buccaneers	
Oct. 27	at Jets	
Nov. 3	at Giants	
Nov. 10	at Redskins	
Nov. 17	at Giants	
Nov. 24	at Eagles	
Dec. 1	at Vikings	
Dec. 8	at Cowboys	
Dec. 15	at Redskins	
Dec. 22	at Eagles	

COWBOYS

1-1

Sept. 2	at Bears	6-22
Sept. 8	at Giants	27-0
Sept. 15	at Colts	
Sept. 22	at Bills	
Sept. 29	at Eagles	
Oct. 6	OPEN	
Oct. 13	at Cardinals	
Oct. 20	at Falcons	
Oct. 27	at Dolphins	
Nov. 3	at Eagles	
Nov. 10	at 49ers	
Nov. 17	at Packers	
Nov. 24	at Giants	
Nov. 28	at Redskins	
Dec. 8	at Cardinals	
Dec. 15	at Patriots	
Dec. 22	at Redskins	

EAGLES

1-0

Sept. 1	at Redskins	17-14
Sept. 8	at Packers	
Sept. 15	at Lions	
Sept. 22	at Falcons	
Sept. 29	at Cowboys	
Oct. 6	OPEN	
Oct. 13	at Giants	
Oct. 20	at Dolphins	
Oct. 27	at Panthers	
Nov. 3	at Cowboys	
Nov. 10	at Bills	
Nov. 17	at Redskins	
Nov. 24	at Cardinals	
Dec. 1	at Giants	
Dec. 8	at Colts	

McElhenny made a splash with the 49ers right away. He played in a college all-star game on a Friday night, the day he was to report to the 49ers' training camp. He reported to the Niners on Saturday and was in uniform Sunday for a exhibition game against the Bears. Then quarterback Frankie Albert convinced Head Coach Buck Shaw to put McElhenny in the game, even though he didn't know the plays. Albert drew one up in the dirt, pitched the ball to McElhenny and watched him dash for a touchdown.

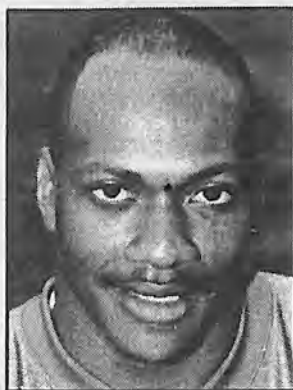
Concerning the Seahawks recent plight and owner Ken Behring's desire to move the team to Los Angeles, McElhenny said, "Behring's not happy with the Kingdome and for good reason. I don't see why the media are so tough on him. It might be for other reasons. I know he's a womanizer, but that has nothing to do with running a football team."

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PLAYER PERSPECTIVE

GOOD HEALTH KEY TO DEFENSE



T I M
McDONALD

One of the reasons our defense is playing well is we have stayed healthy. When everybody is healthy you work on the cohesion and build the chemistry.

You can do more early, because you've practiced together, played together and

you have done everything. Normally that takes until mid-season because guys are getting hurt and other players are shuffling in and out.

JUST THE FACT we had a healthy defense all training camp will give us a head-start over where we were at this point last year. I hope we will continue to play well. I know George Seifert does a good job of structuring practice so that later in the season he cuts back the contact. He does a good job of not getting us tired to where we're susceptible to injury.

I think this defense has a lot of talent. So many of these guys have been together for a few seasons now. Ken Norton, Gary Plummer and Lee Woodall have been playing right next to each other now for two years and they know each other.

Even the new guys we've brought in have done well. Chris Doleman and Roy Barker have fit in well because their basic job is to rush the quarterback.

I think that's what makes us better. We have the cohesion that comes from guys playing together, and in

this era of free agency with clubs seeing players constantly moving around. People underestimate the value of cohesiveness and experience. We have both.

We also have all-around good guys. They're real easy to get along with and that makes a difference. Character makes a big difference and we have a lot of character.

WHEN YOU GET ALONG, it makes communication a lot better. You can talk about any problem that might come up. This is the closest defense I've ever been involved with.

Having Merton Hanks signed also helps. It means I don't have to massage him, and soothe him and talk to him about how it's going to get done. I was always saying, "Don't worry Merton. It's going to get taken care of. Everything is going to be all right. You are going to be a very happy man."

I think Merton kind of hired me as his personal contract mate. I had been through it many times, and it worked out well for him. It's out of the way and it's one less thing he has to worry about. Now he can just concentrate on football, because football is tough. It's tough to concentrate when your livelihood and future are being talked about. We are all human.

I have been through it practically every year I've been here, and we talked about it


all the time; about what it's like to go through some of those things. We just talked about going out to practice, and just playing the game, and those other things usually just take care of themselves.

Merton's style complements me. I'm more of a run-stopping guy. He's more of a sideline-to-sideline guy who can run down passes and he's a good coverage free safety who can match up on the wide receiver. I'm more of the rugged guy who can make a lot of plays underneath.

With Merton we don't have to go in a nickel defense right away when the offense comes out in a three-wide receiver set. We can play base defense against a lot of sets.

Maybe I shouldn't speak too soon. We've only played one game as this is written. And besides, injuries have struck this team, but they've mostly been on offense so far. Only Plummer (hand) has been injured from the defense, and Kevin Mitchell has played well in Gary's place.

With any luck we'll stay pretty healthy. With the salary cap and free agency spreading talent kind of evenly around the league, injuries are an even bigger factor.

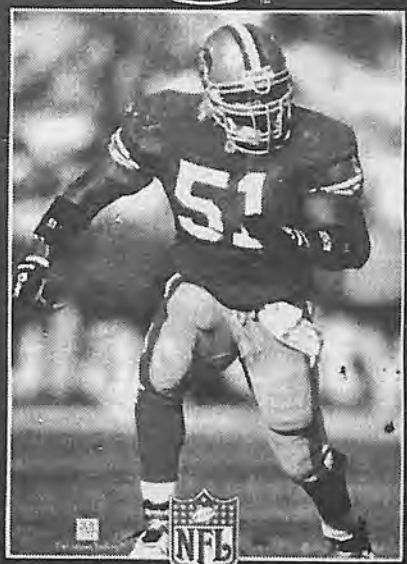
It takes a certain amount of luck to win in the NFL. I'm hoping we'll have it. 



Tim McDonald

Tim McDonald is donating his fee for writing this column to the Omega Boy Club.

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